

St Paul's Egham Hythe 24-hour prayer 20th-21st February 2021

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. (Isaiah 43: 19-21)



Thank you to all those who have signed up to pray during our wave of prayer for St Paul's over this weekend. At a time when we can't gather together in person as a community of faith it's more important than ever that we are intentional about praying together wherever we are. We are called to be the body of Christ together – and need each other to be that body! Let us put ourselves out to spend time with God – to reaffirm our faith and trust and hope in Jesus and pray for each other as companions along the way.

Pray in whatever way you can – and if you've not signed up do pray anyway! Try not to worry about whether you're doing it right – wanting to want to be present to God is a great start! Do be aware that we're praying together. Pray for your own openness to God, for each member of our congregation at St Paul's and for the community we serve. As we seek to journey with Jesus through Lent and into Easter, let's be attentive to the new things that God is doing and longs to do among us. Pray for the time when we can gather again, for God's vision for St Paul's, and pray with the Isaiah passage above for God to do a new thing.

On Sunday Sue helped us to think a bit more about the priorities for mission that the PCC has identified – the prayers Steve used for each of the areas are on the reverse of this sheet as a resource if it's helpful.

Do share with one of the clergy or wardens anything that you feel God might be saying through the time, and to use the jigsaw puzzle piece sent out last week as one way of responding.

With love and prayers

Rosie

What does love look like? *Generous Hospitality*

Reading: Hebrews 13:1-3

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give us eyes to see the deepest needs of people. Give us hearts full of love for our neighbours as well as for the strangers we meet. Help us understand what it means to love others as we love ourselves. Teach us to care in a way that strengthens those who are sick. Let us be a healing presence to those who are weak and lonely and weary by offering our kindness to them. May we remember to listen, to smile, to offer a helping hand each time the opportunity presents itself. Give us hearts of courage that we will be brave enough to risk loving our enemy. Inspire us to go out of our way to include those in the margins. Help us to be welcoming and inclusive to all who come to our door. Let us be God's hospitality in the world. Amen.

What does love look like? - *Nurturing children and young people*

Reading: Luke 18:15-17

Prayer: God of nurturing love, yourself both child and parent, playful and wise reawaken in us all a youthful energy, life and possibility. Bring us into wonder at the beauty, tenderness and facility of your creation and kindle in us a child's simple trust in you. We pray for all who, with and in our schools, share your call to nurture. We pray for all our young people who are growing up, carrying possibility and uncertainty, security and vulnerability, faith and questions. May they find a parent's embrace, a teacher's encouragement and a sibling's play in you. Inspire each of us in our joint act of parenting your children and our own, remembering that when we welcome a child we also welcome Jesus himself, our Lord, our friend and our brother. Amen.

What does love look like? - *Discipleship, our walk with Jesus*

Reading: Luke 18:15-17

Prayer: God of love, source of mercy and compassion, weave your dream for the world into the fabric of our lives. Remove the scales from our eyes and lift the indifference from our hearts, so that we may see your vision – a new reign of justice and compassion that will renew the earth. Transform our lives, so that we may accomplish your purpose. Anoint us with your spirit of love that we might bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the broken-hearted, and proclaim release to the captive. Give us a new urgency and a new commitment to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and visit those who live in isolation or imprisonment. Help us to reach out to those whom no one else will touch, to accept the unacceptable, and to embrace the enemy. Surround us with your love, fill us with your grace, and strengthen us for your service. Empower us to respond to the call of Jesus – to deny ourselves, to take up our crosses, and to follow. Make us your disciples. Amen.